

UCLA Faculty Association

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Friday, June 20, 2025

Possible VP Jam This Afternoon and Evening

From [Patch](#): Vice President JD Vance will travel to Los Angeles on Friday amid ongoing tension over federal immigration enforcement in the city.

The White House announced that Vance on Friday "will tour a multi-agency Federal Joint Operations Center, a Federal Mobile Command Center, meet with leadership and Marines, and deliver brief remarks." The White House did not provide a more specific timeline for Vance's visit.

Vance departed Joint Base Andrews in Maryland shortly after 8:30 a.m. Pacific Time, with his flight expected to be about five hours, likely bound for Los Angeles International Airport.

Southland motorists should expect delays as the vice president's motorcade traverses the area...



Full story at <https://patch.com/california/los-angeles/vice-president-jd-vance-visit-la-friday-amid-tension-over-immigration>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [2:33 PM](#) No comments:

Labels: [traffic](#)

Transit

From time to time, we have posted information about subway construction along Wilshire with cautionary notes about traffic during construction.

It might be noted, however, that the [Wall St. Journal](#) recently came out with a video segment on public transit in the LA area. It notes some of the problems in retrofitting transit in a car-centric region where - unlike, say, New York City - most people are not commuting to work in a centralized downtown area.



However, it gives good marks to the D-line now being extended to Westwood and the VA. You can see the video at <https://ia601509.us.archive.org/28/items/sacramento-city-at-risk/Problems%20in%20designing%20LA%20transit%20system.mp4>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:30 AM](#) No comments:

Straws in the Wind - Part 15

From the [NY Times](#): *The dozen board members of the prestigious Fulbright program that promotes international educational exchanges resigned on Wednesday because of what they said was political interference by the Trump administration in their operations, according to people familiar with the issues and a board memo obtained by The New York Times. * The members are concerned that political appointees at the State Department, which manages the program, are acting illegally by canceling the awarding of Fulbright scholarships to almost 200 American professors and researchers who are prepared to go to universities and other research institutions overseas starting this summer, said the people, including Senator Jeanne Shaheen, Democrat of New Hampshire.*

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The board approved those scholars over the winter after a yearlong selection process, and the State Department was supposed to send acceptance letters by April, the people said. But instead, the board learned that the office of public diplomacy at the agency had begun sending rejection letters to the scholars based mainly on their research topics, they said. In addition, the department is reviewing the applications of about 1,200 scholars from other countries who have already been approved by the board to come to the United States, the people said. Those foreign scholars were also supposed to receive acceptance letters around April.



The memo written by the board says that members are resigning “rather than endorse unprecedented actions that we believe are impermissible under the law, compromise U.S. national interests and integrity, and undermine the mission and mandates Congress established for the Fulbright program nearly 80 years ago,” according to a copy obtained by The Times...

Full story at <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/06/11/us/politics/fulbright-board-resign-trump.html>.

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*Memo at <https://substack.com/inbox/post/165673358>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM

No comments:

Labels: [politics](#)

Thursday, June 19, 2025

For Your Listening Pleasure



Back on Monday, June 2nd, UC Academic Affairs organized an all-day "UC Systemwide Academic Freedom Congress." Viewers could register and watch the Zoom sessions live. At least six of the seven sessions were recorded on Zoom. (More on the missing one below.) Since Monday is a workday, and since the congress was held during work hours, obviously many could not attend and so would not have registered.

Given recent political events (which presumably were a major impetus to organize the congress), a reasonable assumption at the time would have been that recordings of a congress dealing with matters of free speech, academic freedom, and the like, would be made

readily available.

And indeed, those who registered subsequently received an email at the email address from which they registered saying recordings were available by clicking to obtain a code which would be sent to that email address. Using the code would allow access. Yours truly - who had registered originally - followed the directions, obtained the code, and was taken to a webpage from which recordings of six of the seven sessions were available to watch - but not download. The notice indicated that the recording would be available through this process until December 31, 2025 when, presumably, they would vanish.

Note that those who didn't register originally, perhaps because of work or other obligations or conflicts, would not have received the subsequent email with the code, etc. As noted above, this kind of limitation seems inappropriate for a congress on academic freedom.

Was there anything highly sensitive about the sessions? You can find the agenda and speakers below. Sessions 1 and 2 were basically informational. Session 3 on DEI had differing opinions but none you haven't heard before or which would not be expected from the speakers chosen to participate. Session 4 on Title VI was a mix of information and differing opinions. But everyone was polite and civil. Again, no shockers. Session 5 on tenure was largely informational.

Session 6 on campus protests might have been controversial. But no recording is available for that one. Did someone say something that might offend someone? Note that it was a concurrent session so even some of those who tuned in to the general congress might not have seen it since they might have been watching an alternative at the same time. Why is there no recording of the mysterious sixth session? Enquiring minds want to know!

Session 7, a wrap-up roundtable - had some differing opinions, but again, if you knew something about the speakers, you would not have heard anything shocking.

So what to do? Well, yours truly could have used a complicated and time-consuming workaround to produce video copies. Or maybe he could have filed a public records request for the recordings. But since the congress was all talking heads, i.e., no slides, the fast-and-dirty approach was to make audio recordings. So that is what he did except, of course, for the missing session.

Below is a summary agenda for the congress. And below that is a link to a website with the six audio recordings - not high fidelity but good enough - and a more complete agenda with biographical information on the participants.

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Contributors

- California Policy Issues
- Toby Higbie
- UCLA Faculty Association

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UC Systemwide Academic Freedom Congress

- Jun 2, 2025 9:00 AM - Jun 2, 2025 5:00 PM PDT
- Organized by UCOP Academic Affairs

Agenda: UC Systemwide Academic Freedom Congress, June 2, 2025

Organized by UC Academic Affairs

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1-Welcome Remarks & Keynote: 9:00 - 10:15 AM

Katherine Newman

Provost and Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs, University of California

Danielle Allen

Professor & Director, Allen Lab for Democracy Renovation & Director, Democratic Knowledge Project, Harvard University

Sean Gailmard

Herman Royer Professor of Political Economy, UC Berkeley, and Chair of the University Senate's Committee on Academic Freedom

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2-Basic principles and the approach to academic freedom and free speech on campus: 10:30 - 11:45 AM

This panel explores the fundamental principles of academic freedom and free speech, examining their origins, legal frameworks, and practical applications in higher education. Panelists will discuss the roles and responsibilities of faculty, students, and institutions in fostering environments where diverse ideas can be expressed, debated, and respectfully challenged.

Erwin Chermerinsky

Dean, Berkeley Law

Sigal Ben-Porath

MRMJJ Presidential Professor, University of Pennsylvania

Robert Quinn

Executive Director, Scholars at Risk

Emerson Sykes

Senior Staff Attorney, ACLU Speech, Privacy, and Technology Project

Michelle Deutchman

Executive Director, UC National Center for Free Speech and Civic Engagement

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3-DEI and academic freedom (Concurrent Sessions): 12:30 - 1:45 PM

This session examines the dynamics between diversity, equity and inclusion-related programs and services DEI initiatives and academic freedom. Panelists discuss current controversies, the implications of federal and state legislative actions, and how universities can uphold their commitments to diversity, inclusion, both DEI and academic freedom.

john a. powell (He does not use capital letters in his name)

Professor of Law and Director of the Othering & Belonging Institute, Berkeley Law

Brian Soucek

Professor of Law and Chancellor's Fellow, UC Davis School of Law

Peter W. Wood

President, National Association of Scholars

Natasha Warikoo

Lenore Stern Professor in the Social Sciences, Department of Sociology, Tufts University

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4-Title VI and academic freedom and free speech (Concurrent Sessions): 12:30 - 1:45 PM

This session provides an overview of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin in programs receiving federal funding, and how it intersects with the principles of academic freedom.

Robert Corn-Revere

Chief Counsel, Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression (FIRE)

Veena Dubal

Professor of Law, UC Irvine, and General Counsel for American Association of University Professors (AAUP)

Eugene Volokh

Thomas M. Siebel Senior Fellow, Hoover Institution, and Gary T. Schwartz Distinguished Professor of Law Emeritus, UCLA

Mary-Rose Papandrea

Samuel Ashe Distinguished Professor of Constitutional Law, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

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5-Tenure and academic freedom (Concurrent Session): 2:00 - 3:15 PM

This panel explores the evolution of tenure and academic freedom. Panelists will examine whether traditional tenure still protects academic freedom, the role of contingent faculty, and the effects of external political pressures on the tenure review process.

David Rabban

Jamail Regents Chair in Law and Distinguished Teaching Professor, University of Texas, Austin

Henry Reichman

Former Chair, AAUP Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure, and Professor Emeritus of History, CSU East Bay

Hollis Robbins

Professor of English and Special Advisor for Humanities Diplomacy, University of Utah

Margaret Roberts

Professor of Political Science, UC San Diego and Member of the University Senate's Committee on Academic Freedom

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6-Academic freedom, protests, and democratic governance on campus (Concurrent Session): 2:00 - 3:15 PM

Note: As reported above, no recording is available for the concurrent 2 PM session on "Academic freedom, protests, and democratic governance on campus." The participants are listed below:

Josiah Behary is a Ph.D. student in Interdisciplinary Humanities at UC Merced and first UC Merced and undocumented UC Student Regent.

Rana M. Jaleel is an Associate Professor of Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies and Asian American Studies at the University of California, Davis.

Risa Lieberwitz is a Professor of Labor and Employment Law in the Cornell University School of Industrial and Labor Relations (ILR).

Keith E. Whittington is the David Boies Professor of Law at Yale Law School and a visiting fellow at the Hoover Institution. He is the faculty director of the Center for Academic Freedom and Free Speech at Yale University.

Chris Jay Hoofnagle is Professor of Law in Residence at the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law, and founding member of the Berkeley Initiative for Free Inquiry.

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7-Roundtable: External intervention in the university and institutional neutrality & Closing Remarks: 3:30 - 5:00 PM

Sean Gailmard

Herman Royer Professor of Political Economy, UC Berkeley, and Chair of the University Senate's Committee on Academic Freedom

Howard Gillman

Chancellor, UC Irvine

Barry O'Neill

Professor of Political Science, UCLA, and Vice Chair of the University Senate's Committee on Academic Freedom

Judith Butler

Distinguished Professor in the Graduate School, UC Berkeley

Katherine Newman (closing remarks)

Provost and Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs, University of California

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Audio recordings of each session except the missing #6 (the missing link!) are at the link below and will not disappear on December 31, 2025:

<https://archive.org/details/academic-freedom>.

Recordings for UC Systemwide Academic Freedom Congress is available!

Grammar!

Thank you for attending the UC Systemwide Academic Freedom Congress. We hope you enjoyed the event. Recordings of the sessions are now available to view below.



You can watch this recording in the lobby until Dec 31, 2025.

[View recordings](#)

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:     

Labels: [academic freedom](#), [diversity](#), [UC](#)

Straws in the Wind - Part 14

From the [NY Times](#): *Yale University's famed endowment has been trying to offload one of the largest portfolios of private equity investments ever in a single sale, a move that reflects the pressures on both Wall Street and higher education under the Trump administration. The Ivy League school has sought buyers for up to \$6 billion in stakes in private equity and venture funds, according to three people briefed on the sales process, amid uncertainty about its federal funding and the reality that many of these investments have not delivered the outsize returns that Yale expected.*

Yale is now close to completing a sale of roughly \$3 billion of the portfolio and is selling the assets at a slight discount, one of the people said. "This is a big deal," said Sandeep Dahiya, a professor of finance at Georgetown University who has conducted research on the performance

of endowments. "The investor that was the lead architect of investing in the private equity markets is pulling in its horns."

...

The sale comes at a critical juncture for universities. While President Trump has spared Yale the kind of punitive funding cuts he has leveled against other Ivy League schools such as Harvard, Yale is grappling with decreases in federal research funding that have hit higher education broadly. Republicans in Congress have also proposed steep tax increases on endowments...

Yale is on track to spend roughly \$2.1 billion from its endowment in 2025, which accounts for just over one-third of its annual budget...

At least two other large universities are preparing to sell some private equity assets, and dozens of U.S. and Asian pension funds are also looking at exits. Lawrence Siegel, a former director of research at the Ford Foundation, called Yale's move "a wake-up call" for investors. "It's also Yale trying to get out before everyone else," Mr. Siegel said.

Full story at <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/06/10/business/yale-endowment-private-equity-trump.html>.

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Note: Yale's endowment stood at \$41.4 billion at the end of June 2024. Source:

<https://news.yale.edu/2024/10/25/yale-reports-investment-return-fiscal-2024>.



Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM

No comments:



Labels: Georgetown, Harvard, politics, Yale

Forecast

The UCLA Anderson Forecast met yesterday amidst a climate - tariffs up and down, wars in Ukraine and Israel-Iran, deportations - that makes forecasting difficult. From the accompanying news release:

The UCLA Anderson Forecast's second quarterly report of 2025 presents a sobering view of the economic landscape for both the United States and California. The national economy, while resilient in early 2025, faces a period of deceleration owing to aggressive trade policies, fiscal instability and labor market disruptions. Meanwhile, California is already experiencing a mild contraction, with job losses and stagnation in key sectors undermining the state's economic momentum...



National: Although the labor market showed strength through the spring with robust job growth and low unemployment claims, this momentum is not expected to last. The unemployment rate is projected to rise to 4.6% by the end of the year, with further increases likely to continue into 2026. Inflation, which had been moderating, is expected to exceed a 4% seasonally adjusted annual rate in the second half of 2025 as tariff-related costs ripple through supply chains. Long-term interest rates are also on the rise, with the 10-year Treasury note projected to peak at 4.7% before gradually declining. Real GDP growth, which contracted slightly in the first quarter, is expected to slow to near zero in the second half of the year, with only modest recovery anticipated through 2027...

California: The sectors that have historically driven California's superior growth — technology, durable goods manufacturing, entertainment and logistics — are either stagnant or contracting. Healthcare, education and government, which supported growth in 2024, have likely reached their peak. The housing sector is also under pressure, with deportations reducing the construction workforce, rising input costs owing to tariffs and high interest rates constraining new home development...

The forecast for the California economy is that it will grow slower than the U.S.'s in 2025, with several quarters of negative job growth. A recovery from California's 2025 economic doldrums could begin in mid-2026, and economic growth is expected to increase in 2027...

Full story at <https://www.anderson.ucla.edu/news-and-events/economic-and-geopolitical-uncertainties-persist-us-and-california-economies-slow>.

It's this sluggish outlook that makes for the gloomy projections regarding the state budget.

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It was announced that the current director of the Forecast, Jerry Nickelsburg,* will be retiring, although continuing with responsibility for the California portion of the Forecast. The new director will be Anderson Professor Sebastian Edwards.**

*<https://www.anderson.ucla.edu/faculty-and-research/faculty-directory/nickelsburg>.

**<https://www.anderson.ucla.edu/faculty-and-research/global-economics-and-management/faculty/edwards>.

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UPDATE: The Forecast conference can be seen at the link below:



Or direct to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ohq0CIFofyo>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:05 AM](#) No comments:

Labels: [State Budget](#), [UCLA](#)

Wednesday, June 18, 2025

UC Endpoint Detection and Response (EDR) - Follow Up

As blog readers will know, we presented a discussion of a cybersecurity approach being pushed by UC that would seem to entail separate devices for UC business on which an "endpoint detection and response" piece of software would be installed.* There are concerns about what would be detected and whether the system that was supposed to provide protection could itself be backed.



Apparently, the systemwide Academic Senate was not convinced and passed the resolution below which had been put on its June 12th agenda by petition:**

ACTION REQUESTED: *The Assembly considers approval of the resolution.*

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, academic freedom, privacy, and autonomy are foundational principles upon which the integrity and excellence of scholarship, research, and teaching at the University of California depend;

WHEREAS, the deployment of Trellix monitoring software permits extensive surveillance capabilities, including scanning all accessed and executed files, logging detailed metadata (such as filenames, paths, alleged threat names, and hashes), quarantining files, and potentially uploading files deemed suspicious, thus severely compromising faculty privacy and autonomy;

WHEREAS, Trellix's predecessor, FireEye, was hacked in 2020 in the SolarWinds cyberattack, which was determined by intelligence agencies to be carried out by Russian state-sponsored hackers and exposed over 250 federal agencies, including the Departments of State, Treasury, Commerce, Energy, and Homeland Security, as well as the National Institutes of Health;

WHEREAS, the data collected from faculty computers through Trellix software could become accessible to government agencies without a warrant, due to Trellix's membership in the Joint Cyber Defense Collaborative—a joint task force comprising private companies and the federal Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency—that explicitly engages in "rapid bilateral and multilateral threat information sharing;"

WHEREAS, the unchecked capacity of such software to monitor, upload, and alter files without explicit consent poses a significant threat to intellectual freedom, confidentiality of sensitive research data, and the ethical standards expected within our scholarly community; BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Assembly of the Academic Senate of the University of California, demands the immediate suspension of the implementation and use of Trellix or any similarly invasive monitoring software on faculty and researcher computer systems;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any future monitoring software considered for deployment must undergo a transparent and inclusive evaluation process involving faculty representation to ensure the safeguarding of privacy, academic freedom, and research integrity.

Source: https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/_files/assembly/assembly-agenda-6-12-25.pdf (p. 54).

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[*https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2025/06/panel-on-uc-endpoint-detection-and.html](https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2025/06/panel-on-uc-endpoint-detection-and.html).

****Note:** The systemwide Senate seems to have had a lot of business put on the agenda by petition. One interpretation of this development would be that the Senate - in its regular processes - has not been especially attuned to faculty concerns. Just saying...

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:35 AM](#)

No comments:



Labels: [email fraud](#), [UC](#)

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